took over, category-wise and out of which how many are revived and have started functioning as on 31.1.2008;

(b) what are the reasons for poor progress besides lack of interest and priority on the part of the concerned; and

(c) in the process of revival, the details of cases ripe for revival and the time-frame before which revival could be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) consider revival of sick industrial enterprises registered with the Board under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision). Act 1985 (SICA). As per the information received from BIFR, as on 1st May, 2004, a total of 4943 industrial units were registered with BIFR. During the period from 1st May, 2004 to 31st January, 2008, a total of 193 industrial units have been discharged from BIFR/SICA consequent upon their networth turning positive.

Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) maintains records of industrial in public and private sectors which register themselves with BIFR under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). Further, according to the BIFR, the sick industrial companies attribute change in Government policies, managerial problems, production and technical problems, marketing problems, financial problems, lack of adequate infrastructure, delay in sanction and disbursement of Term Loan by financial institutions and banks and high interest costs as the reasons for industrial sickness/closure at the time of registration with the Board.

Steps to reverse negative growth rate

643. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study conducted by the Confederation of Indian Industry has shown that 17 sectors in the country have recorded negative growth rate;

(b) whether such trend is attributed to rising interest rates, strong rupee and the Free Trade Agreement signed with some countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to reverse the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) A study by the Confederation of Indian Industry has shown that 17 sectors in the country have recorded negative growth rate during April-September 2007. The official data, however, do not support this finding.

(b) and (c) Based on the latest information available the growth rates, in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) released by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), for major industry groups for the first nine months (April-December) of 2007-08 over the corresponding of the previous year are as under:

Sector/Industry	Growth Rate (in %) 2007-08 (Apr-Dec)
Mining & Quarrying	4.9
Electricity	6.6
Manufacturing *of which*	9.6
Basis Chemicals & Chemical Products	10.6
Machinery & Equipment	11.9
Food Products	5.9
Basic Metals & Alloy Industries	14.2
Rubber, Plastic, Petroleum & Coal Products	10.1
Cotton Textiles	4.6
Non-Metalic Minerals	7.0
Transport Equipment & Parts	3.0
Metal Products & Parts	(-) 7.0
Paper & Paper Products	1.9
Other Manufacturers	20.6
Textile Products	3.9

Thus, there has been some deceleration in industrial growth during the current period. The high interest rate and the strong rupee are believed to be the factors, among others, for the current deceleration in some specific industries.

Government has put in place various policies to promote broad based industrial growth. This includes, *inter-alia,* de-licensing of industrial capacity, liberalization of foreign trade regime to provide better access to inputs at competitive prices, rationalization and reduction in duty rates of customs and Central excise, better infrastructure support, upgradation of technology and liberal FDI regime. In addition, the Government approved Rs. 500 crore for interest subvention for exporters, in addition to the Rs. 300 crore made earlier. This measures is designed to provide mitigation, to a great extent, of the effect of the rupee appreciation on export sector through availability of cheaper credit to exporters thereby improving their international competitiveness etc. The Free Trade Agreements with other countries keeps in view India's overall interest in a longer term perspective.

Doha round of WTO negotiations

644. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when the next round of negotiations on Doha Round of WTO are going to be held;

(b) the issues that are going to come up for the negotiations;

(c) whether it is a fact that India is willing to show some flexibility to make the negotiations successful;

(d) if so, what kind of flexibility is India willing to make at Doha; and

(e) how the 'flexibility' helps India?